

## Newspaper Clips

Oct. 22, 2015

Hindustan Times ND 23/10/2015

P-10

# IIT, NIT students to help weak peers through tuitions

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**NEW DELHI:** Concerned over students flunking exams in prestigious institutes, the human resource and development (HRD) ministry has decided to allow bright students of IITs, NITs, and IIITs to mentor weak students.

Students tutoring their peers will also be compensated for this exercise.

According to a senior HRD official, a decision in this regard was taken recently and the central government would fund and support this initiative. Officials said that each institute will decide on the compensation they will award the student.

A few institutes already have this system in place, but the ministry has clarified the new norms under which one student will tutor two students.

For instance in IIT Delhi, the tuition fee that is around ₹45,000 is waived off for students who teach other students for a semester. "Every institute will determine its own structure," said a senior HRD official.

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### EDUCATION IN ACTION

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dents take a few lectures and classes to help other students. The new norms that have been issued by the ministry we will abide by them," said DK Nauriyal, dean, student's welfare, IIT Roorkee.

All the institutes have been asked to devise ways of putting the new system in place and ensure that the ratio of students teaching their fellow classmates is maintained.

Recently, over 70 students were expelled by IIT Roorkee for underperformance and scoring less than five CGPA in their first and second semester B-Tech exams. It was probably

the first time in the country that an IIT had taken such a decision to expel so many students. The students were later given re-admission.

Though no official data was released but a number of students who had failed at IIT Roorkee were from the reserved category and though they did well in the entrance examination they were unable to cope with the course.

"This initiative of the government is aimed at ensuring that each student is given every opportunity to do well once they are in the campus," said a senior HRD official.

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# With 'start-up India', research parks to bloom

SMRITI KAK RAMACHANDRAN

**NEW DELHI:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi's pitch for a 'start-up India' campaign has revived the 'research parks' initiative mooted by the Union Ministry of Human Resource Development.

Barring IIT Madras, which has been successfully managing a research park that has incubated many start-ups, not many institutions across the country have been able to get their research parks off the ground, despite the allocation of incubation fund for 100 institutions announced by the UPA government.

According to sources in the government, the MHRD has proposed an initial investment of Rs.100 crore starting the next financial year to revive the research park initiative.

"The idea is to redefine business. These research parks will foster the start-ups by students

To begin with, 50 will be set up in premier educational institutions

and former students, after a panel of experts evaluates them. They will handhold them through the legal and logistical process and help them with formalities like registering their companies," said a senior official.

Initially, 50 research parks will be set up; 16 in IITs, 14 in IIMs and 20 in NITs. Discussions between the HRD Ministry and the departments of Science and Technology and the Biotechnology are under way to work out a plan for the implementation of the projects. Incubators in 17 institutions will also be upgraded to research parks.

In 2013, IIT Kharagpur and IIT Bombay had proposed setting up research parks for tech-

nology development projects for the industry.

## Emphasis on growth

With the emphasis on economic growth, production in India through the 'Make in India' campaign, the Ministry sees the research parks as an important linkage between academia and industry; with the incubated start-ups filling the vacuum and meeting the requirements of industry.

The Ministry has also underlined the need to link research with industry, making it a precondition for institutions like the IITs and IIMs to partner with industry to invest in research.

A senior official explained there is as much as Rs. 250 crore earmarked for research, but it comes with the rider that the end product should encourage patenting and give a fillip to the manufacturing side of the economy.

## With Research Park, IIT-B to come closer to Industry & society

"The new facility will enable IIT-B to become the nucleus of entrepreneurship, similar to the role played by Stanford University in the Silicon Valley," said a professor.

<http://www.dnaindia.com/mumbai/report-with-research-park-iit-b-to-come-closer-to-industry-society-2137166>

It's possibly the most awaited change at the Indian Institute of Technology-Bombay (IIT-B). The premier institute has announced the launch of its ambitious Research Park project.

The Rs 400-crore Research Park is expected to give a fillip to innovation and research in the country. The park aims to emerge as the country's hotspot for development of new technologies, companies and a fresh breed of business leaders from IIT and even outside.

"The research park will provide space, prototyping facilities and concept testing to convert the ideas of innovators into tangible products and services. Lab facilities will nurture the start-ups and help to test and validate their concepts," said Abhay Karandikar, professor-in-charge of Research Park.

For the first time, IIT-B will throw open its programme to outsiders as well. "The idea is to develop the next generation of business leaders. Many innovators and Indian companies are working to address the need of our society, despite technological constraints. With our accelerator program, we can now offer them lab facilities and intellectual capital," said Prof Karandikar.

Over 30 Indian and multi-national corporations have agreed to pitch in for the first phase of this inclusive incubator. "Applied Materials, with whom we have a collaboration for the last 10 years, will be the first anchor client of the Research Park. After completion of the first phase, another set of 50 industries is likely to come in the second phase," he added.

Four major sectors – IT and telecom, Energy, [chemical](#) and ,semiconductor and heavy engineering – have been identified for the first phase of the programme, for which the Ministry of Human Resources and Development has committed to give Rs100 crore. The rest will be arranged from the industries and alumni. Several companies have agreed to give high-tech equipment, either for free or on a concessional rate.

The ministry has been emphasising that IITs carry a huge responsibility of facilitating the 'Make in India' campaign, by participating in research and innovating processes to improve the competitive edge of Indian manufacturing on global stage.

"The new facility will enable IIT-B to become the nucleus of entrepreneurship, similar to the role played by [Stanford University](#) in the Silicon Valley," said a professor.

The Park will operate from the existing academic buildings till its sprawling 7-acre campus with 2.5 lakh square feet structure gets ready in the next two years. It will house 200 research and development units of private companies and corporates.

From [Google](#) to Apple, several start-ups were created in Silicon Valley, which is a unique amalgam of academia, entrepreneurs, industries and the US government. The Stanford University plays the role of the incubator of technology.

A professor said, "In the last 50 years, the Stanford University faculty and students have launched more than 1,200 ventures. Today, over 50 per cent of Silicon Valley's products come from companies of Stanford alumni."

The IITB is also known for giving birth to hundreds of young entrepreneurs, including owners of Housing.com and Ola Cabs, though most of them were incubated outside the campus. A few tech-based start-ups, such as Nanosniff Technologies (nanotechnology-based explosive detector), Wegilant Net Solutions (security software), Sensibol Audio Technologies (audio signal processing technology), quick heart defect detection device and Covacsis Technologies (Plant analytics) also make the campus proud.

# IIM Indore refuses to consider plea to help dyslexic student

**Brajesh Kumar**

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**NEW DELHI:** The Indian Institute of Management, Indore, has turned down a human resource development ministry plea to allow a dyslexic student, who failed her first year, to take her exam again on humanitarian grounds.

The student's appeal to the ministry said she failed her exams because she was not given the facilities due to a student suffering from dyslexia, a learning disability that hampers the reading ability of a person despite normal intelligence.

The ministry wrote to IIM Indore this month to allow her to write the examination with facilities like a scribe or a writer, calculator and additional time.

"IIM Indore has not provided the required facilities on the ground that she had not asked for them. However, it may be desirable to take a humanitarian view and allow her for re-examination under the prevailing rule," the ministry said in its communication.

The institute's director, Rishikesh Krishnan, told HT he had informed the ministry about the decision, but refused to elaborate on the reply. "We have replied to the HRD ministry's letter but would not like to comment on it," he said.

But sources said the institute had decided to stick to its origi-



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nal stand that she must repeat the class.

The institute says her mother was informed of her poor performance during the mid-term tests and she did not ask for special assist-

ance for the annual exam.

The girl's mother says she was never informed of her daughter's performance and the institute should have provided all assistance even if it was not asked for because she was admitted under a disability quota.

Namrata got admission to the institute's five-year Integrated Programme of Management (IPM) under the disability quota last year. According to a certificate submitted by her mother, she suffers from dyslexia and attention-deficit and hyperactivity disorder.

"My daughter had told me that she was finding it difficult to cope up with her studies but the institute was not providing her with the facilities that a dyslexic student needs," she told HT over the phone from Mumbai.

# No Plans for Satellite Campus in India, Says Yale's Peter Salovey

**ET Q&A**

**Peter Salovey**, president of Yale University and

the Chris Argyris Professor of Psychology, was in India recently after visiting Singapore. He had been to the island-nation to launch Yale's permanent campus there in collaboration with the National University of Singapore. In an interview with **Varuni Khosla**, Salovey, AGE, said Yale is receiving more Indian students than ever before. Edited excerpts:

**Yale recently set up a campus in partnership with NUS in Singapore. How will the Yale model work in Asia?**

The Yale-National University of Singapore (NUS) College is Singapore's first liberal arts college. It isn't just a multi-directional exchange, there is involvement of information capital to teach liberal arts. From our perspective, we cannot discuss liberal arts sitting in our 'narrow' part of the world (US). So we decided to expand our expertise here, wherein which our faculty will come to teach from time to time along with the existing scholar network in Asia.

**Do you expect more Indians to apply to the Yale-NUS campus, given its proximity?**

I think there are different programmes in the US. Yale in Connecticut is a research university and students of all levels come to study there. I think undergraduates who want a degree in liberal arts in an international location will go to Yale-NUS. But we see a lot of students applying to both colleges. But it's too early to say yet which way they will go.

**Will there be an India Yale campus?**

Our model is not to build satellite campuses and I think we worry about maintaining quality of faculty and students in satellite campuses. We worry that these satellite campuses can create an enclave where students don't really interact with the local culture. Rather, what we'd like to do is to build partnerships where we bring things to the table that complement something an international partner (in this case Indian) would bring to the table.

We'd create a programme that doesn't necessarily exist at either institution. We've done many of these in China. But that partnership model is more of our form of engagement as opposed to a satellite campus. So, no plans for a satellite campus in India.

**Are there any other India-specific tie-ups you're looking at in the near future?**

Our school of management has developed an international network for advanced studies in management for 27 business schools and IIM (Indian Institute of Management) Bangalore is a



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**PETER SALOVEY**

*President, Yale University*

member of that network. Students can share classroom experiences through technology and there can be various kinds of exchanges in the network. This network has made Yale's School of Management, I think, the most international business school in the US.

**Is there a shift in the kind of courses Indians are choosing at Yale?**

In the undergraduate population from India, there is a lot of interest in economics, political science but they're choosing a liberal arts education and in the US, employers recognise that a liberal arts education helps build graduates who are great problem solvers, are creative and can think critically, communicate clearly and work in teams. I think we're starting to see that interest in employers here in India as well. New universities like Ashoka emphasise that learning and are a reflection of that. We signed an MoU (memorandum of understanding) with them for an expansion of their ongoing collaboration to jointly develop opportunities through faculty-initiated and faculty-directed teaching and research activities.

**Is Asia growing as an important segment for Yale?**

We have very strong students coming out of Asia and have graduates who either want to stay on in the US or come back to Asia and we think both outcomes are good things. There is increasing interest from undergraduates in liberal education and they're very well prepared students. For graduate programmes, there have been very many Indian students for some time now. That's strong for us.

## IISc researcher responds to government criticism of his report

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/bangalore/iisc-researcher-responds-to-government-criticism-of-his-report/article7792738.ece>

Upset with the “offensive propaganda” by the State government over his report on the controversial Yettinahole diversion project, T.V. Ramachandra, Professor at the Indian Institute of Science has written to the Chief Minister asking him to ensure a proper scientific dialogue before undertaking an “environmentally-disastrous” project.

Contrary to the government’s claim that 24 TMC (thousand million cubic feet of water) can be diverted from the tributaries of Netravati at Western Ghats towards parched districts of Kolar and Chikkaballapur, Mr. Ramachandra’s analysis had shown that barely 1 TMC can be diverted from the stream through the nearly Rs. 13,000-crore project.

The hydrological calculations showed that just 9.55 TMC was water flowed in the streams, of which 5.8 TMC was needed as local demand in Dakshina Kannada district.

However, the report had come under criticism, with the Karnataka Neeravari Nigam Limited (KNNL) saying Mr. Ramachandra was not an expert on hydrology and the report published was not authentic.

“KNNL bureaucracy should refrain from casting aspersions on any research team. We have worked consistently and strived for the welfare of the country and State. If KNNL is really interested in the welfare of the state, we invite them for open scientific dialogue in the presence of all stakeholders,” says Mr. Ramachandra’s letter, which adds that he has authored more than 500 publications.

With allegations that the report had ulterior motives as it was “not authorised by IISc”, the scientist responds: “Academicians enjoy academic freedom which empowers them to undertake research of their choice and relevance to the society. The report is prepared by our group in response to the request from local people...(this is a) part of scientist’s social responsibility,” he says.

## IIT-M Magazine Censors 'Campus Depression', Puts Out Toned Down Version

<http://www.newindianexpress.com/cities/chennai/IIT-M-Magazine-Censors-Campus-Depression-Puts-Out-Toned-Down-Version/2015/10/23/article3092726.ece>

CHENNAI: 'It is always darkest before dawn' was published anonymously on The Fifth Estate (t5e), IIT-Madras' official in-house student journal, on October 20. Barely two hours later, it was taken down following "concerns from several quarters".

Narrating real life experiences of a suicide survivor from the institute, the write-up describes the Institute "as a hotbed of depression."

Written in the wake of the second suicide in four weeks at the Institute, it said that it was time for the author to open up about his own tryst with the severe debilitating depression at the Institute, the suicide attempt that followed and how he had conquered it.

"I am a student here at IIT Madras, one of the most reputed colleges in the country and even the world. Yet, for all the laurels the IITs have, there has been one particular problem that we've not been able to eliminate — student suicides," was how it begins.

Barely two hours later, it was taken down with a note saying that "concerns had been raised from several quarters".

Speaking to Express, Executive Editor of the magazine, Raghavi Rao Kodati, said the article was taken down at the suggestion of the faculty advisor to the journal.

"We usually run articles through our faculty guide. This was not done in this case initially. When it was published, we received a suggestion from our advisor saying this might not be the best time to run it. On second thought, we too agreed and took it down for two days. A few sentences in the article like 'IIT is a hotbed of depression', were felt to be a bit strong. There were a few others which we felt needed editing," she explained.

But, it had evoked instant response. One comment on the comments section read — "We all know what quarter that is. What message does this give to students of the institute? It was a well timed article and more of them should be out here. Why are we so hung up about not damaging the repute of the institute, instead of being hung up about not damaging the students? I am disgusted by the way everything is happening here."

The re-published article however, did contain several edits, with a few "sensitive places" toned down. The 'hotbed of depression' phrase for example, has been axed in the censored version.

An email questionnaire from Express to the faculty guide had not elicited a response at the time of printing.

However, IIT-Madras' Director Bhaskar Ramamurthi told Express that the administration had nothing to do with the taking down of the article.